and Training and National University of Educational Planning and Administration, particularly in quality issues and educational planning and administration. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the target is to open twentry thousand primary schools, seventy thousand upper primary schools, construction of 8.87 lakh additional class rooms, 1500 hostels and to provide 4.68 lakh teachers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Under Secondary Education, the target is to provide a secondary school within five kms of any habitation during the Eleventh Plan period. To achieve the objective, Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalization of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage.

Quality of education system

316. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our entire education system, including the vast majority of our best schools and colleges, is substandard as the quality of teaching and learning provided by our best English medium schools is also mediocre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most children complete 5 years of schooling in our Government schools acquiring very limited literacy and numerical skills; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to reform our education system that is based on rote learning to the one which promotes critical thinking and practical skills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Dos not arise.

Performance of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Assam

317. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is satisfied with the performance of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Assam; and

(b) whether Government is aware of mishandling of funds for S.S.A. in the State and if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Seventh Joint Review Mission (JRM), for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), reviewed the progress in Assam in January, 2008 and found satisfactory progress towards the goals of SSA.

(b) The report on the performance audit of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 has classified an amount of about Rs. 6.80 crore in SSA Assam as expenditure not covered under SSA guidelines. An amount of Rs. 5.5769 crore has already been recouped to the State SSA Society from the Government of Assam. The State Government has been instructed by GOI to avoid recurrence of such instances in future.